# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# COAL
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2461
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2000
CONSUMPTION OF COAL
BASUDEB ACHARIA

**Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:**

(a): the consumption of coal and other non-commercial fuels, specially wood in the country during the last three years in coal equivalent facts ;

(b): the capacity of existing forecast to supply fuel wood in coal equivalent without depletion;

(c): the comparative cost of wood and coal as source of energy; and

(d): the steps taken or proposed to be taken to increase the consumption of coal to save forests ?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM)

(a): The present level of consumption of coal in India is 300.41 million tonnes per annum. According to Ministryof Non-Conventional Energy Sources, the present level of consumption of other non-commercial fuels per year in the country is as under:-

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Fuel Wood | - | 227-298 million tonnes |
| Crop Residue | - | 97-156 million tonnes |
| Cattle Dung | - | 37-114 million tonnes |

(b) & (c): Existing estimated fuel wood supply potential, as intimated by Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources, is172.50 million tonnes per annum, and there is immense potential for increasing production of fuel wood by afforestation of degraded lands. No estimates of comparative cost of wood vis-Ã -vis coal as source of energy are available.

(d): In order to improve the availability of coal for domestic consumption in lieu of wood, briquette and smokeless fuel production has been encouraged as a policy. Coal India Ltd., supplied the following quantities under these priorities as stipulated below:-

(In lakh tonnes)

| Year | SPECIAL SMOKELESS FUEL | BRIQUETTES |
|---|---|---|
| 1999-2000(Prov.) | 14.34 | 37.55 |
| 1998-99 | 13.71 | 29.48 |
| 1997-98 | 17.77 | 22.83 |

Coal India Limited has been carrying out wide publicity and propaganda from time to time to use coal in order to save forests.